

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Before the Examiner:  
F. Bauchot et al. :  
Serial No: : Group Art Unit:  
Filed: : Intellectual Property  
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM : Law Department  
IN AN ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET : International Business  
FOR APPLYING USER-DEFINED : Machines Corporation  
OPTIONS : 11400 Burnet Road  
: Internal Zip 4054  
: Austin, Texas 78758

Date: April 19, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231.

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of computing said one or plurality of delta values comprises the further step of:

- computing the value of the cell from said one or plurality of computed delta values.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of associating a logical or mathematical operation with each boolean variable, comprises the preliminary step of:

- specifying either an additive, or a multiplicative or an exclusive operation.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of specifying a delta value comprises the further step of:

- defining the delta value as either an additive increment, or a multiplicative factor or an alternate value applied to the specified cell default value when the boolean variable is set to the first value preferably when the boolean variable is set to the "true" value;

5. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- for each of said one or plurality of referenced boolean variables in each of said one or plurality of cells:
  - specifying whether the boolean variable is referenced in the cell by an absolute reference or not, so that any copy-paste operation performed on the cell results in a cell where the same boolean variable is referenced.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said steps of defining one or a plurality of boolean variables, associating a logical or mathematical operation with each boolean variable, setting each boolean variable to the

first value or to the second value are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box, displayed on a screen of a computer system.

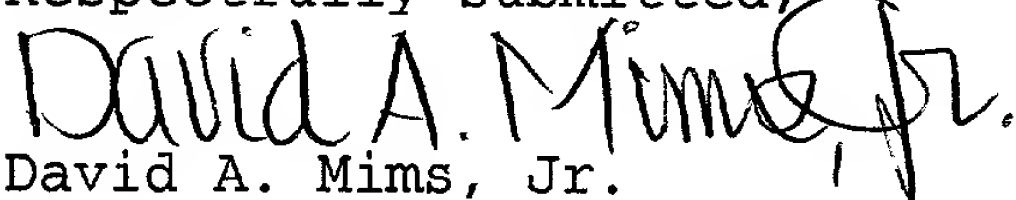
8. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 7.

9. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this French patent application. Applicants have amended Claims 2-9 to eliminate the multiply dependent claims. Applicants have not added any additional claims to the application. The Examiner is asked to consider Claims 1-9 in view of the above amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

2. (Amended) The method according to [the preceding] claim 1 wherein the step of computing said one or plurality of delta values comprises the further step of:

- computing the value of the cell from said one or plurality of computed delta values.

3. (Amended) The method according to [the preceding] claim 1 wherein said step of associating a logical or mathematical operation with each boolean variable, comprises the preliminary step of:

- specifying either an additive, or a multiplicative or an exclusive operation.

4. The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said step of specifying a delta value comprises the further step of:

- defining the delta value as either an additive increment, or a multiplicative factor or an alternate value applied to the specified cell default value when the boolean variable is set to the first value preferably when the boolean variable is set to the "true" value;

5. The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- for each of said one or plurality of referenced boolean variables in each of said one or plurality of cells:
  - specifying whether the boolean variable is referenced in the cell by an absolute reference or not, so that any copy-paste operation performed on the cell results in a cell where the same boolean variable is referenced.

6. The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said steps of defining one or a plurality of boolean variables, associating a logical or mathematical operation with each boolean variable, setting each boolean variable to the first value or to the second value are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

7. The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box, displayed on a screen of a computer system.

8. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 7.

9. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to [claims] claim 1 [to 7].